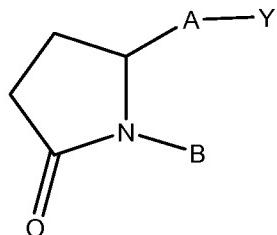


CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A compound of the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug, or a metabolite thereof;

wherein

Y is an organic acid functional group, or an amide or ester thereof comprising up to 12 carbon atoms; or Y is

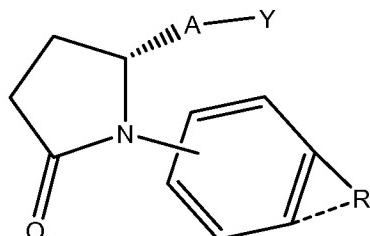
- 10 hydroxymethyl or an ether thereof comprising up to 12 carbon atoms; or Y is a tetrazolyl functional group;

A is $-(CH_2)_6-$, *cis* $-CH_2CH=CH-(CH_2)_3-$, or $-CH_2C\equiv C-(CH_2)_3-$, wherein 1 or 2 carbon atoms may be substituted with S or O; or A is $-(CH_2)_m-Ar-(CH_2)_o-$ wherein Ar is interarylene or heterointerarylene, the sum of m and o is from 1 to 4, and wherein one CH_2 may be substituted with S or O; and

B is aryl or heteroaryl.

- 15 2. The compound of claim 1 wherein B is phenyl.

3. The compound of claim 2 having the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug, or a metabolite thereof;

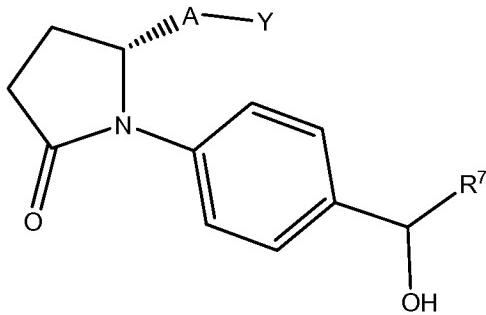
wherein a dashed line indicates the presence or absence of a bond

- 20 20. R is hydrocarbyl or hydroxyhydrocarbyl having from 1 to 12 carbon atoms.

4. The compound of claim 1 wherein Y is selected from the group consisting of $CO_2(R^2)$, $CON(R^2)_2$, $CON(OR^2)R^2$, $CON(CH_2CH_2OH)_2$, $CONH(CH_2CH_2OH)$, CH_2OH , $P(O)(OH)_2$, $CONHSO_2R^2$, $SO_2N(R^2)_2$, SO_2NHR^2 , and tetrazolyl-R²; wherein R² is independently H, C₁-C₆ alkyl, phenyl, or biphenyl.

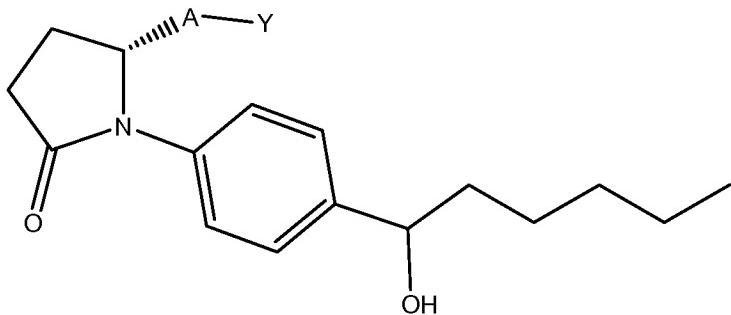
5. The compound of claim 1 wherein A is $-(CH_2)_m-Ar-(CH_2)_o-$ and Ar is interthienylene.

- 25 6. The compound of claim 2 having the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug, or a metabolite thereof, wherein R⁷ is linear alkyl comprising from 3 to 7 carbon atoms.

7. The compound of claim 4 having the formula



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8. The compound of claim 5 wherein A is $-(CH_2)_m\text{-Ar}\text{-(CH}_2)_n$ - and Ar is interthienylene.

9. The compound of claim 2 wherein B is alkylphenyl.

10. The compound of claim 2 wherein B is *p-t*-butylphenyl.

11. The compound of claim 1 selected from the group consisting of

10 5-[(R)-1-(4-*tert*-Butyl-phenyl)-5-oxo-pyrrolidin-2-ylmethoxy]-pentanoic acid;

3-[(R)-1-(4-*tert*-Butyl-phenyl)-5-oxo-pyrrolidin-2-ylmethoxymethyl]-benzoic acid;

5-[(R)-1-(4-*tert*-Butyl-phenyl)-5-oxo-pyrrolidin-2-ylmethoxymethyl]-furan-2-carboxylic acid;

5-[(R)-1-(4-*tert*-Butyl-phenyl)-5-oxo-pyrrolidin-2-ylmethoxymethyl]-thiophene-2-carboxylic acid;

7-[(S)-1-(4-*tert*-Butyl-phenyl)-5-oxo-pyrrolidin-2-yl]-heptanoic acid;

15 5-{(R)-1-[4-(1-Hydroxy-hexyl)-phenyl]-5-oxo-pyrrolidin-2-ylmethoxymethyl}-furan-2-carboxylic acid;

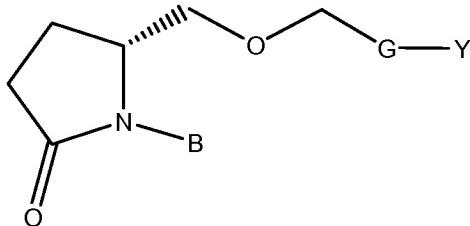
5-{(R)-1-[4-(1-Hydroxy-2-methyl-propyl)-phenyl]-5-oxo-pyrrolidin-2-ylmethoxymethyl}-furan-2-carboxylic acid;

5-{(R)-1-[4-(1-Hydroxy-2-phenyl-ethyl)-phenyl]-5-oxo-pyrrolidin-2-ylmethoxymethyl}-furan-2-carboxylic acid;

and

5-{(R)-1-[4-(1-Hydroxy-hexyl)-phenyl]-5-oxo-pyrrolidin-2-ylmethoxymethyl}-thiophene-2-carboxylic acid.

20 12. The compound of claim 1 comprising

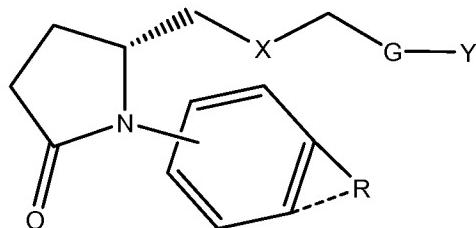


or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug, or a metabolite thereof;

wherein G is 1,3-interaryl or interheteroaryl, or $-(CH_2)_3-$.

13. The compound of claim 12 wherein B is phenyl.
14. The compound of claim 13 wherein B is hydroxyalkylphenyl.
15. The compound of claim 1 comprising

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or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug, or a metabolite thereof;

wherein a dashed line indicates the presence or absence of a bond;

R is hydrocarbyl or hydroxyhydrocarbyl having from 1 to 12 carbon atoms;

X is CH_2 , O, or S; and

- 10 G is 1,3-interaryl or interheteroaryl, or $-(CH_2)_3-$.
16. The compound of claim 16 wherein G is interthienyl.
17. A compound comprising an N-aryl or N-heteroaryl gamma lactam which is effective at reducing intraocular pressure in a mammal.
18. A method comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 to an eye of a mammal for the treatment of glaucoma or ocular hypertension.
- 15 19. A composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 wherein said composition is ophthalmically acceptable.
20. Use of a compound of claim 1 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of glaucoma or ocular hypertension.

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